each police district, deployment of armed pickets at vulnerable/strategic points; intensive mobile patrolling; larger deployment of spotters/watchers; display of photos of known terrorists at public places; greater coordination for intellicence gathering with other agencies and States and soliciting public copperation. Police personnel are being trained in counter-insurgency measures.

(e) The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has sanctioned ex-gratia relief of Rs. 50,000/- for the next of kin of each deceased in the bomb blasts at Sadar Bazar and Lajpat Nagar.

Delay in setting up of overhauling facility for MIG 29

394. SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been considerable delay in setting up overhauling facilities for MIG 29 fighter aircraft within the country resulting in heavy loss to the exchequer;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for initiating the indigenisation project;

(c) whether any guidelines have been finalised for procurement of spares and other consumables; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Setting up of indigenous facilities for MIG 29 aircraft overhaul is progressing as per schedule. Two MIG 29 aircraft have already been inducted for overhaul in April and June, 19% as per schedule.

(c) and (d) Necessary guidelines have been finalised for procurement of spares and consumables and are being followed. Contracts for supply of a spares and consumables for the overhaul of an initial batch of 10 aircraft, to be procured as per recommendations of the manufacturer, have been signed. Further requirements to be computed on the basis of actual sumption of spares for these aircraft.

Streamlining the Working of Passport Offices in Maharashtra

395. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps government have taken or propose to take to stream-line the working and modernisation of passport offices in the state of Maharashtra particularly in Mumbai; and

(b) the steps taken by Gvoernment to reduce delay in issuing of Passports?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Government's focus has been on stream-lining the working and strengthning the infrastructure of all the Passport Offices including those in the state of Maharashtra. The specific measures taken in regard to the Passport Offices in Maharashtra and particularly at Mumbai include application of improved computer technology to ensure expeditious receipt of verification reports from the State Government authorites introduction of a tele-inquiry system which enables a passport applicant to check the status of his/her application without having to pay a visit to the Passport Office, installation of a fax machine and improving the public facilities in the Passport Office.

(b) Proper and thorough scrutiny of passport application forms at acceptance stage itself; better and close co-ordination with concerned state authorities with a view to getting verification reports expeditiously, generating greater awareness among people about rules and procedures and documentation required to be submitted with the passport application, periodic review of policy and procedures, redressal of public grievances, periodic review of staffing requirements, upgrading of office equipment on an ongoing basis are some of the measures introduced to reduce delays in issue of pass-ports.